

Message Text

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61

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 SCS-03 CIAE-00 FDRE-00 HEW-04

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 DHA-02 SCA-01 USIA-06

EB-07 IO-13 /061 W

----- 023653

R 151456Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0595

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINC SOUTH

JCS

CSA

CNO

DOD

CSAF

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FOR AID/FDA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, NU

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT OF NICARAGUA'S ATLANTIC COAST FLOODING

REF: MANAGUA 3302

1. I SPOKE TO PRESIDENT SOMOZA THIS EVENING (JULY 13) AND CONVEYED TO HIM THE SUBSTANCE OF THE JOINT DAST AND MISSION FLOOD SURVEY CONCLUSIONS OUTLINED IN REFTEL.

2. I EXPLAINED TO THE PRESIDENT THAT IT WAS THE EXPERT JUDGMENT OF THE DAST, WITH WHICH THE MISSION CONCURRED, THAT THE MAGNITUDE OF THE ATLANTIC COAST FLOODING WAS LESS THAN PORTRAYED

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TUDE OF THE ATLANTIC COAST FLOODING WAS LESS THAN PORTRAYED

INITIALLY AND MANAGEABLE BY THE GON WITH IN-COUNTRY TRANSPORT, FOOD, MEDICAL AND OTHER RESOURCES, AND SOME ASSISTANCE FROM LOCAL VOLUNTARY AGENCIES . IN THE EVENT OF A SIGNIFICANT WORSENING OF THE FLOODING AND NUMBERS OF VICTIMS, I SAID THAT WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO REVIEW THE PROBLEM AGAIN AND REQUEST ASSISTANCE IF THE SITUATION WARRANTED IT. I ADDED THAT OUR DISASTER RELIEF AND RELATED TRANSPORT ASSISTANCE WAS A RESOURCE OF LAST RESORT, AND IT APPEARED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD THE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL.

3. SOMOZA REPLIED THAT HE APPRECIATED THE PROMPT AND VALUABLE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN BY THE DAST AND THE EMBASSY, AND THANKED ME FOR MAKING A SPECIAL TRIP TO THE ATLANTIC COAST ON SUNDAY (JULY 11) TO OBSERVE THE FLOODING AT FIRST-HAND. HE SAID THAT AN OBJECTIVE, OUTSIDE SURVEY OF THE SITUATION WAS VERY VALUABLE TO HIM AND THE CONCLUSIONS WERE REASSURING. HE ASKED ME TO EXPRESS HIS APPRECIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT AND THE SOUTHCOM FOR THE ASSISTANCE RENDERED. THEBERGE

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